

hear of the Mormons? The Mormons are just as good Protestants as the Methodists. That there was the slightest difference in personal character between John Wesley and Joseph Smith we do not believe. Both founded new religions and on the Protestant theory the Book of Mormon is every whit as good as the Book of Discipline. Yet the Mormons have been driven across this country as dust before the hurricane and every stage in their journey is marked with blood. Who thundered against them, who raised the worst passions of the mob against them, who destroyed their property, confiscated the fruits of their labor, slew their leaders and sent them out to take refuge in the more tender mercy of the savage and the desert? Was it the inquisition? Was it the Catholic church? No. Thank God, not even the insanity of bigotry can lay that crime to our charge. It was the evangelical churches of this country, and as usual the most bloodthirsty of all the persecutors were the Methodist preachers. When did the Methodist bishops, or the Methodist editors, or the Methodist elders, speak for equal religious privileges for the Mormons? Ye hypocrites, that build the sepulchers of the prophets and are the sons of them that slew the prophets!

"The Methodists are in favor of equal privileges to all men everywhere! They are! Will the editor of the Methodist Christian Advocate please read the following dispatch to the Baltimore Sun: 'The situation between Mormons and Gentiles in Kershaw county is becoming daily more strained. The burning of two Mormon churches and the shooting into the home of one of the Mormons, wounding his daughter, having failed to run the Elders out of the county, more vigorous measures are being resorted to. A band of White Caps, wearing white clothing and masks, last night visited the home of H. M. Bradham, an adherent of Mormonism, where several missionaries were visiting. After making a threatening demonstration the White Caps ordered the Mormons to leave the county by March 1st. Four Elders who were run out of Fairfield last week, have returned with four others, and with the declared resolve of maintaining their position by force. A contractor who went to Fairfield to rebuild the burned churches has been made to leave the country.' While the Methodist bishops and the Methodist elders were straining their eyes to the mountains of Peru why did they overlook Kershaw county? The hypocrites preferred to lie about Catholic countries that are far away rather than to do justice in Methodist counties that are within our borders. A long bow needs a long range. Kershaw county is in South Carolina. South Carolina is one of the most illiterate states in the Union and therefore a stronghold of Methodism. There are over ten thousand church members in the district and two-thirds of them are Methodists.

"If the Methodist church favors 'equal rights to all men on the footstool' why does it not speak for the persecuted Mormons of Kershaw county? The fact of the matter is that the machinery of the Methodist church is behind those persecutions, and there is no church in the world which lodges such irresponsible power in its heads, no church in the world which treats its individual members with such contempt. Nay, more, the old Protestant device of prosecuting Protestants flourishes in its fold. Did the editor of the Christian Advocate ever hear of the Tonga Islands? Let him read the second last number of the American Sentinel and he will find there sworn statements as to the carryings on of his liberty-loving Methodists. The

church has split up into two factions and one faction is engaged in the pleasant diversion of flogging the members of the other faction, tricing them up by the thumbs, throwing them into prison, and all for the glory of John Wesley and the advancement of religious freedom. Our readers must pardon us for threshing old straw. They know all about the Methodists and this must be a weariness to their flesh. But they will please bear with us a little longer. We are about half through with the Christian Advocate. When we take up a task, we like to stay with it to the end. Of course we have no hope that our exposure will make the preachers a whit more tolerant. But it will put a mass of facts within handy reach of those who may be pestered by the preachers' vauntings of their liberality and tolerance. While men like the editor of the Christian Advocate and his Methodist bishops and his Methodist elders pose as champions of equal rights, or even of common honesty, these facts will bring to the mind of the judicious observer the words that were spoken of the spiritual ancestors of the preachers: 'Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because ye are like unto whitened sepulchers, which outwardly appear to men beautiful, but within are full of dead men's bones and of all filthiness.'

#### CAUSES OF DIVORCE.

Gertrude Atherton, a very brilliant woman, contributes to the Contemporary Review, London, a paper on "Divorce in the United States." Her opening paragraph is as follows:

"Divorce is rampant in the United States. It is steadily on the increase. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the actions are brought by women. The actions are almost invariably based on the following grounds: Infidelity, cruelty, intemperance, failure to provide, desertion. Therefore it would seem that men are pretty much alike the world over, but that the American man, being conscious of his shortcomings, has made himself as adjustable as possible, and that American women have a high-handed way of shuffling the cards to suit themselves."

The lady epitomizes the divorce laws of the several states, shows that divorce has lost the odium formerly attaching to it, and that it is spreading in the South, where, until recent years, it has been neither prevalent nor popular. Then she undertakes to philosophize, and observes:

"The typical woman of the United States today is a mental anarchist. Inevitably this anarchistic spirit in women has bred one dominant and most important attribute—the ability to begin life over again every day in the year, if necessary. These women are rarely morbid and bitter; never, it might be asserted, unless they are unhealthy, or very young. They act, rather than talk, when it comes to crises. The past, when disposed of, has no further concern for them. The present is theirs; the future, a condition to be moulded by their imperial will. Moreover, the women of the present two generations, who dwell in great centers, have in large measure thrown off the shackles of conventional religion. And, to reiterate an important point, the atmosphere is electrical."

She expresses "the root of the whole difficulty" as follows: "The women have outstripped the men, spiritually and mentally. The men of the United States possess some of the finest pertainties of the human race, but they are failures where women are concerned. Their own interests are

so restricted that they are unable to interest for any length of time the most versatile and mentally restless women on three continents."

That is, divorce prevails so widely in America because American women are mentally undisciplined and restless, and their husbands fall to "interest" them.

Miss Atherton's treatment and analysis of the subject are in line with the namby pamby modern school of thought upon such subjects, a school which is deficient in acumen and robust moral tone; overlooks real facts and causes, if they seem coarse or unesthetic, and reasons in an abstract and listless but "refined" sort of way about the greatest questions that affect human life or happiness. She states some truths but does not more than penetrate beneath the outer skin of the subject.

The real cause of divorce is sin. Not one couple in a thousand will desire or consent to divorce, if both husband and wife, before as well as after marriage, have conformed their lives to those laws of nature and of nature's God upon which conjugal happiness is predicated. God and nature have both intended that husband and wife should love each other and cleave together, and this great purpose will be thwarted only by transgression on the part of one or the other of the persons united in marriage. Rare cases of mismatching may possibly occur to which this rule will not apply; but they would be so rare, under a normal condition of society and popular morals as scarcely to constitute an element of the question.

A close observer of the divorce courts will note that, among the most frequent causes for divorce that come to light are drunkenness, cruelty and infidelity to the marriage vow on the part of the man who, four times out of five, is the defendant. When he takes the other side he commonly charges the woman with either infidelity or desertion, and often the latter term involves the former but is used because less offensive. Contributing to the general result, doing very much to produce it, are the man's preference to spend his leisure elsewhere than at home, and the woman's habit of "nagging" him.

There are students of this subject who assign the "nagging" habit in wives as one of the chief causes of divorce. They argue that it exasperates the husband until his love for his wife dies out, and he seeks elsewhere the pleasures of companionship with the other sex. The wife soon learns the truth and then home becomes a place of torment for both. Divorce follows as a matter of course.

But far down below the surface is a cause of divorce that is seldom or never brought out in court, nor in the gossip a divorce suit excites, nor in the papers. In most cases the parties to the suit themselves give it no thought, do not, in fact, realize that it exists; yet often it is the cause of all the other causes that result in disrupting the marriage relation by or without a judicial decree. It is the practice of preventing offspring.

If the husband be the instigator of the practice, the wife, in spite of herself, is forced to realize that the man she has loved and trusted, and to whose care and control she has confided her all, and in whom are centered her dreams and hopes of happiness, is a degraded brute, whose chief purpose in entering the marriage state was the gratification of animal passion. Such a proposal, coming from him, dissipates the garb of honor, courage and manliness in which her loving imagination had clothed him, and reveals him to her a coward, a dastard and a hypocrite; a coward because he shrinks from the